This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-44 (canceled).

45. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:

a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a bottom wall; a first set of ~~side~~walls that define a first closed tubular portion with the bottom wall; and a second set of ~~side~~walls that define a second closed tubular portion with the bottom wall, the second closed tubular portion arranged end to end with the first closed tubular portion, the first closed tubular portion having an effective diameter that is less than an effective diameter the second closed tubular portion; and

a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section ~~in a non-fixedly secured manner~~ and retained by the contact section so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element ~~are free,~~ can move in relation to the contact section, the flexible contact element for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall,

wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first closed tubular portion.

46. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 45, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge that is positioned outside of the contact section.

47. (previously presented) The female electrical terminal of claim 45, wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

48. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:

a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a first closed tubular portion comprising a first set of ~~side~~walls that forms

an insertion pathway for a complementary male terminal; and a second closed tubular portion comprising a second set of ~~side~~walls and being arranged end to end with the first closed tubular portion; wherein geometrically central axes of the first and second closed tubular portions are misaligned ~~and the first tubular portion has an effective diameter that is less than an effective diameter of the second tubular portion~~ such that a space is formed outside of the insertion pathway; and

a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section ~~in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free,~~ for urging [[a]] the complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall, the flexible contact element including a leading edge that is positioned within the space.

~~wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion.~~

49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) The female electrical terminal of claim 48, ~~wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and~~ wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

51. (currently amended) The female electrical terminal of claim 48, wherein an opening is defined at an interface between the first closed tubular portion and the second closed tubular portion; and wherein a portion of the flexible contact element extends into the opening.

52. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:

a contact section for mating with a complementary male terminal, the contact section including a first closed tubular portion comprising a first set of ~~side~~walls that forms an insertion pathway for a complementary male contact; and a second closed tubular portion comprising a second set of ~~side~~walls and being arranged end to end with the first closed tubular portion; wherein the first closed tubular portion has an effective diameter that is a

different size than that of the second closed tubular portion such that a space is formed outside of the insertion pathway; and

a flexible contact element at least partially disposed within the contact section ~~in a non-fixedly secured manner so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element are free,~~ for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with the bottom wall, the flexible contact element including a leading edge that is positioned within the space.

~~wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the first tubular portion.~~

53. (currently amended) The female electrical terminal of claim 52, ~~wherein the flexible contact element includes a leading edge, and~~ wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to the flexible contact element leading edge.

54. (currently amended) A female electrical terminal, comprising:

a contact section including a set of converging ~~side~~walls that define an insertion pathway for a complementary male terminal, the insertion pathway having a diameter that is smaller than a closed tubular portion that is proximate the set of converging ~~side~~walls; and

a flexible contact element partially disposed within the contact section ~~in a non-fixedly secured manner~~ and retained by the contact section so that opposing ends of the flexible contact element ~~are free,~~ can move in relation to the contact section, the flexible contact element for urging a complementary male terminal into engagement with a contact section bottom wall;

wherein the female electrical terminal is devoid of any structure prohibiting frontal access to a leading edge of the flexible contact element, and

wherein the flexible contact element does not extend into the set of converging ~~side~~walls.

55-58. (canceled).